

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 /088 W
-----045445 222303Z /65

R 221526Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9238
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
CINC EUR VAHINGEN
USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 10396

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, GW
SUBJECT: LEO IN LIBYA?

1. THE FRG HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM OR TO DENY THAT TWO LEOPARD TANKS HAVE BEEN SMUGGLED TO LIBYA AND TESTED THERE BY THE SOVIETS. THE GERMAN PRESS HAS GIVEN THE STORY CONSIDERABLE PLAY THE PAST WEEK BASED UPON A STATEMENT BY BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN WOERNER.

2. BOTH DEFENSE MINISTRY AND FONOFF OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT THE INTELLIGENCE REPORT UPON WHICH THE STORY WAS BASED WAS NOT CONVINCING ENOUGH. ACCORDING TO THE GERMANS, A BUSINESSMAN, NOT AN EXPERT ON TANKS, SIGHTED TWO TANKS IN A SHED IN LIBYA WHICH HE THOUGHT WERE LEOPARDS. FROM HIS DESCRIPTION OF THEM, IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THEY WERE LEOPARDS OR PERHAPS AN ITALIAN-PRODUCED HYBRID WHICH THE GERMANS CALL THE "LEOPARDINO." THE GERMAN PRESS REPORTS THAT THE ITALIAN LICENSEE, OTO-MELARA, CONFIDENTIAL

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VIGOROUSLY DENIED THAT ANY TANKS IT PRODUCED HAD FOUND THEIR WAY TO LIBYA.

3. IF THE TANKS WERE IN FACT LEOPARDS, OUR SOURCES POINTED OUT THAT THEY WOULD BE EARLY MODELS OF THE LEOPARD I AND ACCORDINGLY NOT OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE VALUE TO THE SOVIETS. THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE MATTER

IS CONTINUING.
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SMUGGLING, TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES), ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770632/aaaabbwl.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3c93e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Subject: LEO IN LIBYA?
TAGS: MILI, GE, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
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